



Department of Justice

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INMATE CONVICTED OF FILING FALSE CLAIMS AGAINST THE IRS

A Jury in Syracuse, New York Convicted Ronald Williams, of Twelve Counts of Making False Claims As Part of a Prison-Based Tax Refund Scheme

Syracuse, New York — Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York and Victor W. Lessoff, as Acting Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, New York Field Office, announced today that a federal jury in Syracuse, New York convicted Ronald WILLIAMS, age 48, of eleven counts of filing false, fictitious, and fraudulent claims against the United States, and one count of aiding and abetting the filing of false, fictitious, and fraudulent claims in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 287 and 2. The conviction of WILLIAMS was the culmination of a three-day long jury trial before United States District Judge Norman A. Mordue. Sentencing for WILLIAMS is scheduled for May 25, 2012, in Syracuse, New York. As a result of the convictions, WILLIAMS faces a maximum sentence of imprisonment of five years on each count, and a maximum fine of up to \$250,000.

The evidence presented at the trial showed that WILLIAMS, while housed at various New York State Correctional Facilities, filed eleven tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service during tax years 2006 through 2010. As part of his scheme to defraud the IRS, WILLIAMS applied for a fraudulent refund which resulted, initially, in the issuance of a refund check in the amount of \$327,456.04. The check was intercepted by prison authorities and promptly returned to the Internal Revenue Service. To further his claims, WILLIAMS fabricated withholdings on numerous Forms 1099-OID by claiming false withholding credits. The eleven returns were for payment of refunds of taxes totaling \$890,000,000. WILLIAMS was also charged with aiding and abetting another prisoner with making and presenting to the IRS a false fictitious, and fraudulent claim for a refund of taxes based upon the 1099-OID tax scheme. WILLIAMS never actually received any monies.

Following the conviction, Victor W. Lessoff, Acting Special Agent in Charge, said "The object of these schemes is to defraud the government and the taxpaying public. Although a check was computer generated in this case, immediate action was taken as soon as it was identified by IRS Criminal Investigation and those involved in this scheme were vigorously prosecuted."

Special Agents with the IRS's Criminal Investigation Division investigated the case with the assistance of the Inspector General's Office of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United Attorney Tamara Thomson. Any questions may be directed to Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney John G. Duncan in Syracuse, New York at 315-448-0672.